

*Washington Park Arboretum*

# BULLETIN



Published by the Arboretum Foundation

**Winter 2012**

**\$5**

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The Arboretum is a 230-acre dynamic garden of trees and shrubs, displaying internationally renowned collections of oaks, conifers, camellias, Japanese and other maples, hollies and a profusion of woody plants from the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Aesthetic enjoyment gracefully co-exists with science in this spectacular urban green space on the shores of Lake Washington. Visitors come to learn, explore, relax or reflect in Seattle's largest public garden.

The Washington Park Arboretum is managed cooperatively by the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and Seattle Parks and Recreation; the Arboretum Foundation is its major support organization.

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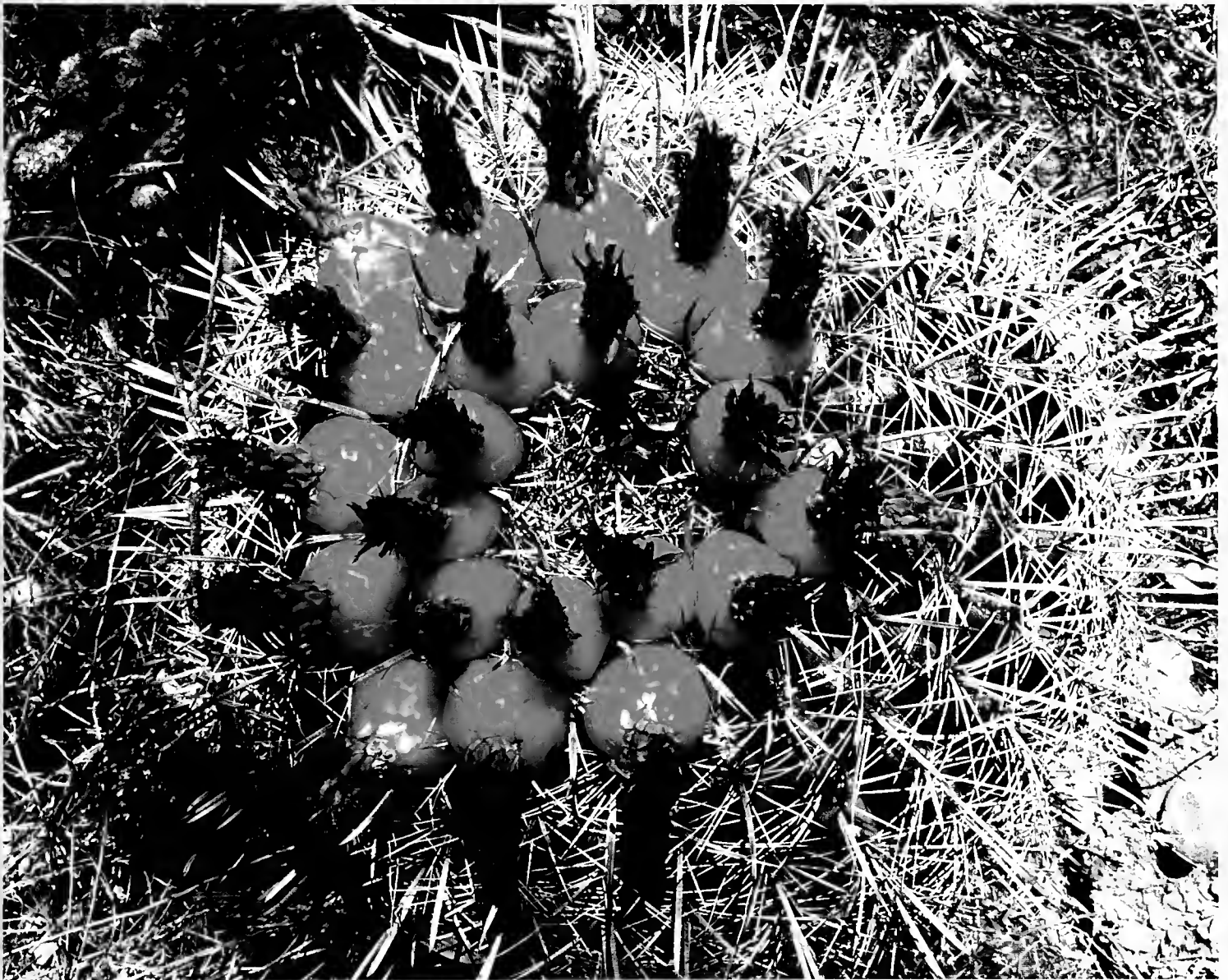
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**Winter 2012 Volume 73. Issue 4.**

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**ABOVE:** A fruitful cactus specimen on exhibit in the Pincushion Ramada area, in Tohono Chul in Tucson. Janine Anderson photo. (See pages 18-23.)

**ON THE COVER:** *Helleborus x hybridus*, Lenten Rose. Photo courtesy of Great Plant Picks.



WISHES, DREAMS, AND INVENTIONS:

# How the Pacific Connections Stewards Came to Be

“When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true.” Jiminy Cricket in Walt Disney’s *Pinocchio* (1940).

“Somewhere over the rainbow...dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.” Dorothy in MGM’s *Wizard of Oz*. (1939).

“If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.”

“Necessity is the mother of invention.” Old English proverbs.

Those first two quotes are beloved by millions, the lyrics of two of the sweetest anthems of the popular culture of my childhood. But, my family never quoted them. In my comfortable Long Island suburb, during the era of \$.29 gasoline, we didn’t need horses and had no beggars. But, my stern Yankee-German grandparents often repeated the adage: “if wishes were horses...” The images might be dated, but theirs was a practical world of hard work and action.

When I started at the Foundation a few years ago, I was impressed by the great work our dedicated volunteers did supporting our fundraising operations. But, there wasn’t a program for skilled volunteers to help care for our plant collections. In the past our volunteer units had been far more active in working in the collections, and Unit 86 in the Japanese Garden still did. How we could bring back that volunteer engagement and create a new unit to assist in caring for the new Pacific Connections gardens?

The new unit became a wish and a dream—and it didn’t happen. Some were concerned that volunteers would supplant the work of paid staff, some that the volunteers would need so much supervision that their presence would not increase the maintenance of the plants. The idea remained just a dream.

Then came the Great Recession. Just as the new Pacific Connections gardens were planted and more maintenance was needed, the financial crisis hit our City and University partners. There was no money for new staff, just personnel cuts. The Foundation helped, paying for a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  time gardener, but that was not enough to care for the new gardens. What were we to do?

The answer was in the proverb: “necessity is the mother of invention.” In these times, our partners were willing to work with us to try something new. Together we designed a new “stewards” group of skilled volunteers who could work semi-independently to support the crew and increase the amount of care the new gardens received. Jan Whitner, our *Bulletin* editor, and Walt Bubelis, a local horticulture teacher, David Zuckerman and Kyle Henegar from UWBG, joined me on the committee. We hired Rhonda Bush to work with us, design the new program, and recruit our volunteers.

Six months later, after much thought and lots of hard work, we have 25 dedicated volunteers who have bonded as a community to work several times a month to assist Kyle in caring for Pacific Connections. In one day, they do what would take Kyle a whole week. Our partners are so pleased they want to use this as a model for other volunteer efforts. Jiminy Cricket, dreams really can come true! Thank you to our partners for taking the risk and to everyone who worked so hard to make it so. ~

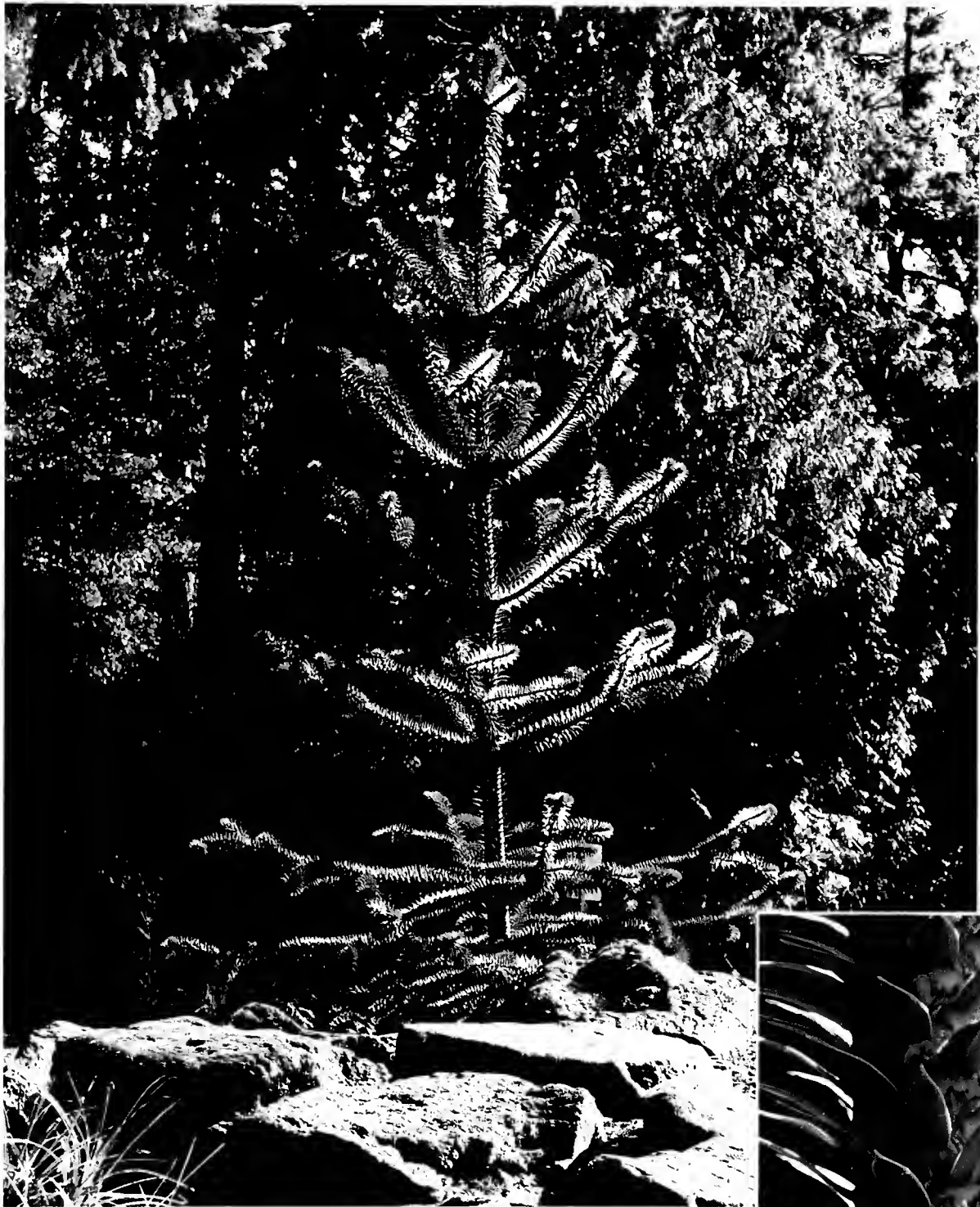
Cheers,



Paige Miller, Executive Director,  
Arboretum Foundation

# The Pacific Connections of the Monkey Puzzle Tree

BY LIISA WIHMAN



Driving past the recently planted Pacific Connections “Gateway to Chile” garden in the Washington Park Arboretum, several young, healthy specimens of the monkey puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*, catch one’s eye with their slightly

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**ABOVE:** A young monkey puzzle tree in the Pacific Connections “Gateway to Chile” garden at the Washington Park Arboretum. (Photos by Liisa Wihman.)

A Tudor Revival-style house in Seattle, with a young monkey puzzle tree on the front lawn. (Photo by Asahel Curtis, early 20th century. Special Collections, UW Libraries, Seattle.)

alien form and scaly needles spiraling out from their regularly whorled branches. Given its distinctive looks, many gardeners are familiar with this unusual conifer, but only a few probably know that the monkey puzzle's connection with the Pacific shores of North America predates the Euro-American settlement here.

The national tree of Chile, monkey puzzles are one of the oldest-living plant species. Dating back to the days of dinosaurs, their large, prickly needles seem very well suited to protect them from the attacks of hungry vertebrates. They are hardy and extremely long-lived; some specimens in the Chilean forests are well over 1000 years old. Traditionally, the monkey puzzle has been an important plant for the indigenous peoples of the southern Andes Mountains and provided them with firewood and timber. It also has been used for medicinal purposes, and has even played a part in harvest and fertility ceremonies. Its large, cream-colored seeds (that resemble giant pine nuts covered in a cinnamon-brown husk) have been an important source of food, and their taste—that I've unfortunately not yet been able to try—is described as rich and delicious.<sup>1</sup>

It was its culinary value that became the monkey puzzle's ticket to the world outside Chile. In 1792, Captain George Vancouver's expedition explored the Pacific Northwest in search for the legendary Northwest Passage (expected to exist north of the Bering Strait), continuing the work started by Captain Cook 14



years earlier. Archibald Menzies, a Scottish doctor and plant-hunting explorer, worked as the appointed naturalist on Vancouver's expedition, and he collected seeds and plants wherever the expedition stopped. During this successful voyage, Menzies described and recorded hundreds of species that were new to botany, like Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), evergreen and trailing Oregon grapes (*Berberis aquifolium* and *B. nervosa*), flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), Pacific Madrone tree (*Arbutus menziesii*) and Pacific rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*).

On the way back to Britain in 1793, Captain Vancouver stopped in Chile. There the expedition members were invited to dine with the country's governor and were served a local delicacy that contained monkey puzzle seeds. Always a curious botanist, Menzies saved some of his tasty seeds and cultivated them in a frame on the ship's deck. Five healthy, young plants made it back to Great Britain and were planted there in 1795, creating great excitement in the horticultural circles. But it was only in 1844 that plant collector William Lobb, who worked for

<sup>1</sup> As the species has become endangered due to destruction of its original habitats by logging and forest fires, it was provided the highest form of protection available for plants in 2002 when it was included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



the Veitch Nurseries in England, was able to procure enough viable seeds for commercial cultivation so that the plant could start its journey to horticultural stardom.

The monkey puzzle tree, which commercial nurseries started propagating during the second half of the 19th century, quickly became one of the trendiest of the Victorian era—often appearing as botanical showpieces on the grounds of Britain's great estates. As with so

many other garden trends and novelties from Europe, this one also was embraced by newcomers on the Pacific shores from British Columbia to California. From the late 19th to early 20th centuries, pictures of residential houses often show monkey puzzles proudly planted as solitary specimens on the front lawns. Some of them have survived—still thriving in the temperate Pacific climates—and are now, over a century later, huge trees that have

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**ABOVE:** Two magnificent *Araucaria* specimens in front of a stately, century-old house on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Probably planted as small saplings soon after the Arts and Crafts-style house was built in 1909, their umbellate canopies now form a decorative but prickly portal by the main entrance. Both trees bear large cones. (Photo by Liisa Wihman.)





sometimes outgrown their allocated spaces.

Today, the monkey puzzle has lost its star status as a residential garden plant in the Pacific Northwest, and it is seldom included on the plant selections of local nurseries. But the latest craze being integration of edibles into all parts of one's garden (from flower borders to meadows), monkey puzzles—those unusual conifers with edible seeds—might be due for a second period of popularity. Two drawbacks need to be considered, however: First, only female plants produce seeds; to get results, at least one male and one female tree need to be planted. Second, since it takes a couple of decades before the monkey puzzle starts to

produce seeds, buying a property with old trees is the shortest way to acquire a crop. Despite the fact that a mature, single tree can yield thousands of delicious seeds each season, the conifer kitchen gardener may very well need to figure out how to reap the harvest before jays and squirrels snatch them. ∞

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**LIISA WIHMAN** is a Finnish garden historian now based in Seattle. Her blog, [www.intercontinentalgardener.blogspot.com](http://www.intercontinentalgardener.blogspot.com), is about all things related to gardens and gardening. She is a member of the "Bulletin" Editorial Board.

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**ABOVE:** The thick, scaly leaves of *Araucaria araucana* spiral around both branches and trunk. (Photo by Liisa Wihman.)



# Few People Are Aware of the First Director of the Arboretum

BY WALT BUBELIS AND JOHN A. WOTT

The idea for this article was first assigned to Editorial Board member Walt Bubelis, who had a long working relationship with Roberta Wightman—a landscape architect who was an early hire of Dr. John Henry Hanley, the first official director of the then-named University of Washington Arboretum. Fascinated by her stories about Hanley, Walt researched what information he could find, but it was scant. (Roberta died in 2010 at the age of 98.)

In a discussion Walt held with John A. Wott, Dr. Wott mentioned that he had actually met the four children of Dr. Hanley when they unexpectedly dropped by the Arboretum one day during his directorship. Luckily, Dr. Wott took their addresses, but the only address now currently correct is that of daughter Virginia Hanley McDonald, of St. Louis, Missouri. When contacted, she gladly provided a wealth of information—mostly news articles and pictures—which served as the primary resource for this article. She was delighted that we were going to write a new story about Dr. Hanley.

Because of the scant information known about Dr. Hanley, there have always been questions about the impact he had on the Arboretum and why he resigned suddenly after seven years as its director. Even more interesting is why his name is hardly known today, while everyone familiar with the Arboretum knows the names of subsequent director Brian O. Mulligan and on-site manager Joseph Witt.

John Hanley served as the director of the Washington Park Arboretum from January 1, 1939



to January 1, 1947—a period in which budgets were constrained by world events. During that same period, he served as a member of the Seattle City Planning Commission and as editor of the Arboretum's "Bulletin", which was published quarterly as of March 1943. Hanley also worked to put the funding of the Arboretum on a sound financial basis, supported by regular appropriations from the state.

John Hanley was born February 24, 1904, in Wilmington, Delaware to Sarah Deibert Hanley and James Lee Hanley. Sarah's parents were in the shipbuilding business. Lee became a 33rd degree Mason, and Sarah was a member of the Eastern Star. They moved to Liberty Township, Ohio—a "country suburb" of Youngstown—where they lived in a small farmhouse on some acreage. Lee also became a Trustee of Lincoln Township.

Hanley was the eldest of five children—four boys and one girl—who all attended Liberty schools and graduated from Liberty High School. He loved athletics and excelled in softball. (Virginia believes her father received scholarships at both Ohio State University and the University of Michigan.) And his love of baseball even inspired him to later purchase a pitching machine for his son Al (Allen) while he was in high school. In addition, Hanley became an unofficial "scout" for Al's baseball coach at Roosevelt High School. Virginia attributes her father's love of plants and the outdoors to his father, with whom he spent much time hunting and fishing.

Hanley did undergraduate work at both Ohio State University and the University of

Michigan, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from “U of M.” His master’s degree in horticulture was also from the University of Michigan where he graduated cum laude; besides receiving the Phi Beta Kappa, Hanley also was elected to the honorary societies of Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi. He arrived in Seattle from the University of Illinois, where he had obtained a Ph.D. in plant physiology from the botany department and served as a scientific assistant in floriculture. While in college, Hanley also trained for two years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Central States Forest Experiment Station at Ohio State University.

At the University of Illinois, Hanley met and married Barbara Ann Jenkinson in September 1931. Their daughter, Barbara Lee, was born on July 5, 1933. Unfortunately, Daddy’s (as Virginia fondly recalls him) wife died three weeks later.

### **In Virginia’s own words:**

“This was devastating to Daddy, who never spoke of his first wife the entire time that we lived with him. I only remember now that before showing our family night slide shows, which were frequent, there was always a photo of a beautiful woman sitting in a red chair which Dad said was the trial photo to check clarity. Now, I am very sure that it was his first wife. I am sending a photo of her and a small excerpt from the introduction to a book which Daddy wrote to his little Barbara to tell her about her mommy and how much he had loved her and knew that Barbara would have loved her too.

It is very sad. He and my mother never told Barb about this so it was a real shock to my sister when, in rooting through her dad’s dresser, which she shouldn’t have been doing, she found this book about her real mother. I should say that Mary Mills Hanley (my daddy’s second wife and my real mother) was a REAL mom to Barbara though, one of the best mothers children could have. Barbara was 18 at the time she discovered it and none of the rest of us were ever told it either.

So, Daddy met his second wife at the University of Illinois also. She had been a friend of Barbara Ann and was also studying landscape architecture. So all three of them had known each other. The first Christmas after Barbara Ann’s death, Daddy spent with mom’s sister and husband in Joliet, Illinois so he must have been seeing my mother (Mary) by then, but we never knew. We don’t have information about where my mother spent that Christmas.

Daddy married Mary Virginia Mills on September 4, 1934, in Glencoe, Illinois. Virginia Ruth Hanley was born September 24, 1935. Allen Mills Hanley was born July 23, 1940 and Mary Margaret Hanley was born December 12 or 13, 1942. (The hospital record and the birth certificate disagree. But we celebrate it on the 13<sup>th</sup>.)

Our mother, Mary Virginia Mills Hanley was a really, truly, amazing mother. She and Daddy made a great team as parents for us. They really worked together to provide all kinds of opportunities for us in many facets of life—athletics, music, fine arts, scholastically, and in group activities and as integral parts of our neighborhood.

We lived in Laurelhurst. We had two extra lots behind the house which were used for gardens (surprise) and also a wonderful campfire area beside a big old madrona tree where we had benches to sit on, could roast marshmallows, and even had enough space to sleep outside overnight. Of course we did that in the backyard too.

Daddy tested Jackson & Perkins roses in the ‘pretty’ side of the garden. Many varieties of these gorgeous flowers lined the garden perimeter. We also had some great fruit trees, so we were spoiled with delicious apricots, apples, and Italian plums. It was so great to come home from the beach club, walk through the back gardens and pick a fresh plum or apricot on your way into the house. Those were the days. And we had delicious raspberry bushes too. We all loved to go to camp.

Daddy had always wanted to locate in the Pacific Northwest because of its climate. I only know this because I read it in an article which

I sent to you. And I know that he longed to create a likeness to the Butchart's Gardens of Victoria, British Columbia somewhere in the Arboretum grounds. This was after his sabbatical to London where he spent so much time in the Kew Gardens.

You asked why we came to Seattle. Daddy received an offer to be director of the Arboretum and to be an associate professor of botany, I think."

Dr. Hanley came to the Arboretum when the main areas and infrastructure as we see them today—namely the roads, trails, water and lighting systems—already were in place. There was also a greenhouse in place, and the first buildings where now the Donald C. Graham Visitors Center stands. Credit for this layout goes to the Olmsted Brothers firm hired in 1935. Even though they considered their plan preliminary, it eventually became the layout of today. A large lath house was constructed south of the greenhouse in 1943.

Dr. Hanley was particularly fond of the genus *Rhododendron*. This shows in the procurement of plants for the Arboretum collection during his tenure. Major rhododendron collections, such as the Tenny *Rhododendron* Collection (procured with the help of the Seattle Garden Club), were already part of the Arboretum plan. The Tenny plants were installed on the south bank of Rhododendron Glen in the spring of 1939 and later re-arranged by Otto Holmdahl, a landscape architect of some repute who also did the south entry rockery.

Dr. Hanley never discussed much business at home, at least in front of the children. He apparently loved the Arboretum dearly. As far as Virginia knew, he "...loved it all, every part of it." Dr. Hanley wanted to expand upon connections with centers of rhododendron collections around the world, so he decided to go to England shortly after WWII ended. He felt strongly enough about this to go even though there was disagreement amongst the Arboretum Foundation members on the expenditure of funds. It was the practice then for the Arboretum

Foundation to pay for the director's salary and other items, if the state legislature did not fully fund them. A prominent member of the Foundation, Herbert G. Ihrig, did not see eye-to-eye on this and other goals of Dr. Hanley. Ihrig was himself a collector of rhododendrons and, in fact, had made separate contacts with a number of the English gardens and institutions that Hanley proposed to visit.

Dr. Hanley decided to go anyway since this was his first chance to go safely across the Atlantic and see firsthand the results of the war years on the English garden collections. On many estates, for instance, century-old rhododendrons had been cut down to ground level for firewood. Much to people's astonishment, many of them regenerated. While in England, Dr. Hanley spent six months studying the plants at Kew Gardens, at other botanic institutions such as the Royal Horticultural Garden at Edinburgh, and at various research stations and commercial nurseries. Although Dr. Hanley and Ihrig had similar goals of fostering interest in rhododendrons, the tensions that arose between these two contributed to the director's resignation, effective January 1st, 1947.

Dr. Hanley then joined the "Northwest Gardens and Homes" publication as editor-in-chief and purchased an interest in the publication. This was a monthly magazine with a bent towards the home gardener, with articles ranging from Disraeli's favorite flower to hybridizing to greenhouse growing. The publication, which celebrated its 15th anniversary at the same time Hanley came aboard, ended publication in 1958.

Hanley was a prolific garden writer, working out of his home. For over 11 years, he had a twice-a-week garden column—"Better Gardening"—which ran in the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer" and as a byline in seven other newspapers. He embraced technology too, with frequent broadcasts on both television and radio. With his contacts in the Seattle Men's Garden Club, he came to know many of the local plant breeders. His readers knew the latest and best about such

diverse plants as lilies (from Jan de Graff), daffodils (from Grant Mitsch), primroses (from Frank Reinelt), irises (from Rholin Cooley) and rhododendrons (from 'Jock' Brydon). Hanley knew his audience; the city editor of the "Post-Intelligencer" said it all: "He writes for us weekend gardeners who don't want to be experts; who only want our shrubs to be green, our fruit trees to have a respectable crop and our flowers to bloom pretty."

### **Virginia remembers that:**

"The front downstairs bedroom became his office for awhile, where he typed and read and made drawings for his books and for the magazine work. Then he also had a TV show. I remember that he did a lot of thinking and writing in the early morning hours, even though I wasn't awake then. Finally the front bedroom was too small for his work and he moved into the dining room, taking full control of the dining room table until meal time. But by then Barbara and I were gone from home much of the time so they could clear off one end of the table for the four remaining family members. Mother was selling real estate and she was on an unusual schedule, so that dinner times were not 'family' times like they used to be.

Our parakeet, Birdie, typed along with our father, only on his perch. He would peck, peck, peck, then quickly side step and ring the bell which was mounted to the side of the cage. Pretty soon he would peck, peck, peck himself right off the perch.

Finally Daddy had an office downtown, which must have been when he was writing for the "Post-Intelligencer." He was good on the TV program, which I watched a few times. I think he really enjoyed that but he developed a cataract in his right eye and the lights began to really bother his eyes. So I do remember that he was uncomfortable a lot of the time until he had surgery. After that, the huge contact lens (the size of the eyeball almost - and thick too) was hard to get used to too."

Dr. John Hanley died unexpectedly on a

Friday night, August 14, 1959, age 55, at his residence.

Virginia says: "No one knew that he wasn't feeling well. (He sometimes thought that he had pleurisy and would treat himself.) Mother, Barbara and I were all out of town, and did not know that Daddy wasn't feeling well. My brother Al found him seriously ill at home, and he died that night on the way to the hospital in the ambulance. I think Allen never got over that. Then Al with his wife and children, lived with Mother after her heart attack and stayed with her until she died just 8 years after Daddy's death. They were both young according to today's life expectancy."

I asked Virginia for her thoughts as to her father's legacy:

"I know that for us children, we all learned to love the great outdoors, just—just being surrounded by nature by the many varied aspects of the natural world. I developed a deep respect for those whose livelihoods are depedant upon the soli, wind and the rain and the sea. People have asked me where I would most like to go on vacation and it is always the mountains, a ranch, on the water, in the woods, or in a garden—anywhere in the countryside. I credit my father and mother for that passion and for everything they shared with us as we grew up. For regional gardeners, I believe he left a knowledge of and a reverence for the beautiful trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping planning found in the Pacific Northwest. Some of my friends still use information from his book, "Year 'Round Gardening in the West," published in 1956. He also completed "The Handbook of Rhododendron" in March, 1946."

This is the story of Dr. John H. Hanley as we have captured it mostly through the words of his daughter Virginia. Sister Barbara and brother Allen are deceased, Allen unfortunately being lost on a mountain trek in Oregon in 2009. Sister Peg Hanley Hackenbruck also survives.

It is apparent that Dr. Hanley was a brilliant

*Continued on page 29*

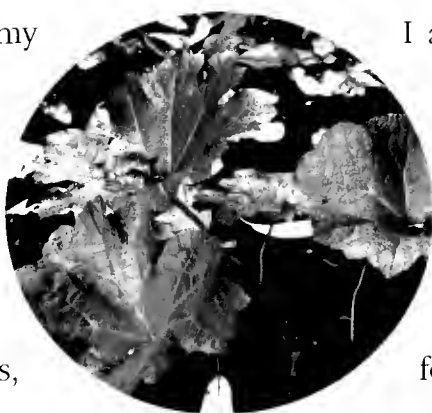


# Hanging Out at the New Bog Garden

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY NIALL DUNNE



I'm a bit of a bogman. In my homeland of Ireland (a place of many bogs), "bogman" is a derogatory term for a country person, similar to "hillbilly" or "redneck" in the U.S., but I've come to embrace it, because I'm not only proud of my rural roots,



I also recognize the value and beauty of these precious wetlands. Needless to say, when I heard that the Arboretum was creating a new bog garden in the Cascadia Forest section of the Pacific Connections Garden, I celebrated with a wild, foot-stompin' Irish jig.

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**ABOVE:** Coast boykinia (in flower), Indian rhubarb, and western sword fern in the seepage slope section of the new Cascadia bog garden.

The new bog garden is located at the south side of Cascadia Forest, on the trail that leads up the hill from the Gateway to Chile garden. It was installed by the Berger Partnership (the Seattle-based firm hired by the Arboretum to design Phase 2 of Pacific Connections) during the construction of the Gateway to Chile last summer. Berger worked closely with plantsman and Arboretum Foundation board member Dan Hinkley on the plans for the new display, which consists of two distinct wetland sections: a circular depression—not much bigger than a large Jacuzzi—on a bend in the trail, and a linear seepage slope adjacent to a stone stairway nearby.

“The garden is intended to represent a hanging bog in the Siskiyou Mountains,” says Jason Henry, a principal at Berger. “These wetland habitats are often perched on open slopes, and generally feature very soggy, low-nutrient, low-oxygen soils. The bog garden in the Arboretum is a vignette of these unique systems and contains many more species of bog-dwelling plants than you would find in a comparable amount of space in the wild.”

Wetlands of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains occur near hillside springs and seepages, along-side streams, and in localized depressions. Rain-fed, low-pH bogs are found, but ground-water-fed fens are more common. Fens are similar to true bogs, but because they receive water from adjacent streams and seepages, their pH reflects the chemistry of the surrounding soil—and in the serpentine areas of the Klamath-Siskiyou, the soil water is alkaline rather than acidic. This leads to variation between the plant communities of fens and bogs, but there is also quite a bit of overlap. The bog garden in the Arboretum is an evocation of this complex of wetland environments.

The designers have created a plant palette of more than a dozen species, including such beauties as coast boykinia (*Boykinia occidentalis*), western Labrador tea (*Rhododendron neoglandulosum*), western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*), and Indian rhubarb (*Darmera*

*peltata*). Some of these have been planted already while others will be phased in as the plant material becomes available. In keeping with the conservation theme of Pacific Connections, all the plants in the bog garden will eventually have a wild-sourced pedigree.

“The *Ledum*, *Boykinia*, and western azaleas that you see here today have all been propagated from seed gathered by our collections manager Randall Hitchin on his trips to the Siskiyou back in 2008,” says Pacific Connections gardener Kyle Henegar, who has been working hard with her UW Botanic Gardens colleagues on the installation and maintenance of the new wetland exhibit. “But we are also using quite a few nursery-grown plants, as well as some species like huckleberry that are not in the design plan, as placeholders to stabilize the slopes and the soil, and fill in the display. These will gradually be swapped out for bog-dwelling species grown exclusively from wild-collected seed.”

The star attractions of the garden right now are two clumps of cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*) that were donated by Doug Ewing, manager at the UW Botany Greenhouse. This stunning pitcher plant resembles—in its tubular and forked leaves—the rearing head of a king cobra, hence the common name. It’s adapted to survive in both the acidic bogs and alkaline fens of the Siskiyou. In these low-nutrient environments, the cobra lily—like other pitchers—supplements its nitrogen diet through carnivory.

Dan Hinkley, who helped originate the idea for the bog garden, is a big fan of this species, as I found out when I asked him what’s so great about our native hanging bogs. Here was his reply:

“It is rather easy to become jaded while observing the flora of our planet, with locales around the globe seemingly possessing more exotic flamboyance than our own backyard. Yet in the southern Cascades, most notably in the Klamath Knot, a fen or bog at its summer’s zenith will hold its own against any more far-reaching ecosystem. In the midst of steep, rocky



and arid terrain, one can find lines of moist yet infertile soils sporting, amongst other gems, sweeps of the endemic *Darlingtonia* passively capturing and digesting insects for sustenance. It is a true marvel of the Pacific Northwest”

To recreate wetland conditions in the Cascadia Forest, Berger installed an irrigation system, which will keep the soil sufficiently moist in the dry summer months. Also, when Berger’s contractor excavated the lower section of the bog garden (which I’m unofficially calling the Jacuzzi section), they found that it had a clay subsoil bottom. Though a natural hardpan is usually bad news for growing garden plants, in this case it was a fortuitous turn of events—because the clay layer will help retain rain and irrigation water in the garden and sustain the wetland flora.

The creation of the bog garden hasn’t been all smooth sailing. In the first iteration of the lower, circular section, compost was used as the

planting medium. But this didn’t work out too well—after heavy rains, the compost would turn to slurry, and the garden looked more like a water hazard (or an actual Jacuzzi) than a bog. Also, compost didn’t provide the ideal pH conditions for the acid-loving plants in that section of the bog garden. Doug Ewing recommended using peat instead. Though admittedly not the most sustainable solution (peat being a non-renewable resource), it worked a charm. Kyle and fellow gardener Roy Farrow filled in the depression with 18 bales of peat, and replanted the display—and most of the plants are now responding very well.

Kyle and Roy have also borrowed a page from Richie Steffen of the Miller Botanical Garden and added snags to the bog garden for architectural and wildlife appeal. “Richie taught Roy and me about the beauty of downed wood,” says Kyle. “We dragged several snags from deep in the Arboretum and placed them in the bog

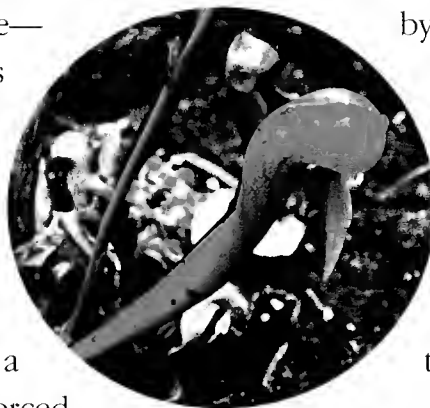
**ABOVE** A clump of cobra lily adjacent to some downed wood in the lower, circular section of the bog garden.





garden, to give the garden structure—but also, we hope, to attract animals such as salamanders.”

Initially, though, the main fauna that have been attracted to the garden are dogs! Apparently, like me, they love to muck about in the soft boggy earth and spin a merry dance. But Kyle is being forced to rake out the paw prints at the start of each day. And it’s also not good for the plants! So please, if you’re walking your dogs through Cascadia Forest, keep them on the path and out of the bog garden. If you’re planning a trip to the Arboretum—with dog or without—do stop



by and check out the new display. It has beautiful, unusual flora to admire. And as it matures and develops over the years, it will allow visitors to experience some of the awe and wonder of a true encounter with a hanging bog in the wilds of the Siskiyou. ∞

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**NIALL DUNNE** is the communications director for the Arboretum and serves as a member of the “Bulletin” Editorial Board. He has written and edited numerous publications for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

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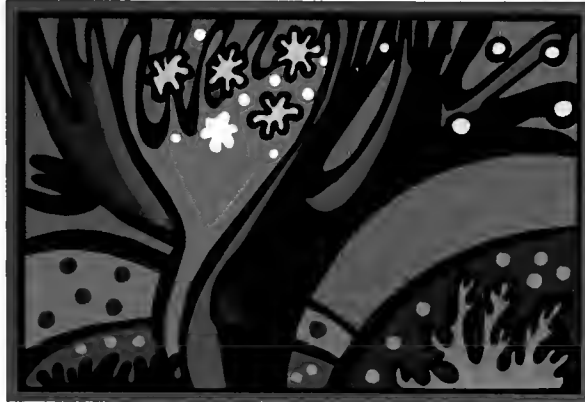
**ABOVE:** Sword fern, western coltsfoot, and other plants stabilizing the seepage slope.



# Exporting Environmental Education

BY PATRICK MULLIGAN

One of the first programs at the Washington Park Arboretum was the Index Seminum, started in 1948. An index seminum is a “seed swap” between arboreta and botanic gardens that enables one institution to ask another



for specific seed stock. It's a really cool and old-school way that plant people share resources. Sadly, owing to state-mandated belt tightening, the Arboretum's Index Seminum is no more. But as one program dies, another germinates.

In September 2010, three botanist-educators from Vladivostok Botanic Garden (Vlad BG) visited Seattle to learn all they could about environmental education (EE). The aim was to use what they saw to establish an EE program of their own. Much of their time was spent observing and participating in our School Fieldtrip Program's fall training. A follow-up to this visit happened last July, thanks to a grant from the Walter T. Pereyra Foundation. Three environmental educators—Sally Kentch from the Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) program; Tony Allison, who splits his time between both organizations; and, I representing the University of Washington Botanical Garden (UWBG), made the reverse trip to Vladivostok to evaluate, collaborate and spread the good word about EE in Primorsky Krai, a territory in the Russian Far East. (Picture Japan and move west towards China.) This is a brief summary of our adventure.

Flying west across the International Date Line is a mind-boggling test of one's internal

clock. We chased down the sun, left it in the rearview and touched down in Beijing a full 36 hours after we'd left (though the flight was only 13 hours). The scene of our overnight layover looked like a battlefield—bodies sprawled every which way,

struggling to catch a few much-needed hours of sleep. When we finally arrived in Vladivostok, our exhaustion was temporarily relieved as we were greeted by a couple of familiar faces and several that would soon become so.

We headed to our hostel, a stone's throw from the Vlad BG's gate, and quickly surmised that Vladivostok is undergoing a face-lift. The 2012 Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (APECC) is coming to town next September, and the entire city (including 60 miles of highway between the airport and downtown) is under construction. Short-term, this is an inconvenience for the Vlad BG because they're right on the highway; long-term, it will no doubt improve accessibility and boost visitation.

We napped briefly and then joined our hosts for a welcome dinner, where we met the young blood driving the push to make Vlad BG a regional hub of sustainability and environmental education. There was both hope and excitement in the air as they practiced their English, and we our Russian, to discuss the coming week. (Fortunately for us, Tony is fluent in Russian.) The young women who had visited Seattle—NadiaTonkova, Valla Kalinkina and Albina Brizhataya—had been busy and, in conjunction with our visit, had organized “Environmental

Education Week”, which consisted of free tours at Vlad BG, an EE symposium, and a whirlwind van tour of Primorsky Krai to promote the value of environmental education to students, teachers and whomever else would listen.

We spent the next day becoming familiar with Vlad BG, while tagging along on and evaluating the aforementioned tours. It should be noted that these kinds of educational tours are a new thing in Vladivostok, developed since the women’s trip to Seattle. All in all, they did an excellent job of showcasing Vlad BG’s collection and surrounding forest, but we three Americans agreed that they were too heavy on content and should strive to better engage their audience by fostering more opportunities for two-way dialogue. Upon later visits to several classrooms, we would discover that this lack of two-way dialogue is characteristic of the Russian educational system. And to be sure, Russian students are very strong on content.

The following day was the symposium—the

main event—and it had attracted a decent crowd that included members of the American consulate and several TV crews. I gave a presentation about the UWBG, Sally gave one about the MTSG, and we co-presented a third entitled “Environmental Education: Theory and Practice”. Tony worked the hardest, though, in his role as translator. We were a hit, and the day was a huge success. Perhaps the most valuable outcome was that the young women running the education program were now seen by their peers as rising leaders in the field. By summit’s end, there was already talk of formalizing the network that had been created, and all eyes looked to Vlad BG to spearhead the effort.

The remainder of our trip was spent on the road. We traveled north from Vladivostok, visiting a string of small cities and towns to deliver our message—that environmental education is important, valuable and fun. We were warmly received wherever we went, and after countless teas, several school-garden tours, and

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a handful of late-night brainstorming sessions, I felt as though I'd been lied to as a kid growing up in the 1980s. The Russians we met were gracious hosts—inquisitive, multi-talented, astute, incredibly resourceful and deeply concerned for the future of their country and of our shared planet. This mentality is especially prevalent in Primorsky Krai, a geographical oddity and biological hotspot home to such magnificent and endangered creatures as the Amur tiger and Manchurian bear.

As the human population continues to grow like rabbits and consume like locusts, it gives me hope to know that there are Russian children being given the knowledge to help our situation. Our 10-day trip ended too quickly, but the cultural exchanges and the mutual learning will continue as we figure out ways to help one another in this increasingly interconnected world. (If anyone has ideas, don't be shy!)

The Index Seminar's loss is sad because of its historical significance, but in a way it resem-

bled the "call and response" teaching style educators around the world are trying to leave behind. The partnership we've forged with Vlad BG is far more valuable because it is personal, and it is a true exchange where both parties benefit. We can still share seeds of course, but they will be as gifts while sharing laughs, ideas and hopes for the future as well. Rachel Carson once said, "It is not half so important to know as to feel". The opportunity to spend time with colleagues halfway around the world, and to witness the perseverance with which they face daunting challenges, reaffirms for me the value of environmental education and makes me feel that anything is possible. ~

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**PATRICK MULLIGAN** is the education supervisor at the Washington Park Arboretum. He attended Islandwood on Bainbridge Island and received his master's degree from the University of Washington.



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# Tohono Chul Park—A Tucson Treasure



So reads the etching in a slab of red Arizona flagstone at the entrance to the Desert View Trail at Tohono Chul Park. My sentiments echo those of Saint-Exupéry, a French author most famous for the novella “The Little Prince”. The desert is magical and other-worldly—providing a welcome contrast in flora, fauna, landscape and climate—to visitors from the Pacific Northwest, particularly during our wetter, grayer months.

“I succumbed  
to the desert as  
soon as I saw it.”

—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Located on the northern edge of Tucson, Tohono Chul Park is a 49-acre desert oasis. “Tohono Chul” translates as “desert corner” in the language of the Tohono O’odham (“desert people”), among the earliest inhabitants of the Sonoran Desert. Surrounded by shopping centers, gas stations, hotels, condominium complexes and traffic-clogged highways, the park is also within arm’s length of the Santa Catalina Mountains and provides a wonderful

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**ABOVE:** A view of the Santa Catalina Mountains from Desert View Trail.



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY JANINE ANDERSON



vantage from which to view them. It has been named one of the world's great botanical gardens by "Travel + Leisure" magazine and designated one of the top 22 secret gardens in the United States and Canada by "National Geographic Traveler".

### History

Like many wonderful gifts, Tohono Chul Park is the product of the vision and selflessness of a few individuals. In this case, the



benefactors were Richard and Jean Wilson, who moved to Tucson in 1962 and a few years later began piecing together the property that would become Tohono Chul Park. Before the area's rampant commercial development, it was home to date palm and citrus farms, whose unsustainable irrigation practices contributed to the now usually dry riverbed where the Santa Cruz River formerly flowed.

The Wilsons started the park in 1979 by putting down lime for paths and identifying

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**ABOVE:** Human-like features of the mature saguaro include fasciate, "hairstyle" nest cavities suggesting eyes, and numerous branches suggesting arms.



some of the plants. In 1985, 37 acres were formally dedicated as a desert preserve, and the property was deeded to a non-profit foundation, Tohono Chul Park, Inc., in 1988. The last 11 acres were added to the park in 1997.

### What's There

There is much to explore at Tohono Chul Park. It has numerous themed and demonstration gardens, interpretive signage and walking trails. Plants in the park include native species and low-water-use varieties suitable for the arid Southwest. The only "outliers" are a few date palms and other remnants from the property's former lives. Flowers bloom year round, but peak cactus flowering occurs in mid- to late spring. Several buildings house an education corridor, art exhibits, museum shops, a tea room and a greenhouse and garden shop.

### Walking Trails

Along the paths are a wide variety of desert plants such as cactus, aloe, agave and other succu-

lents. The most striking of these has to be the huge saguaros (*Carnegiea gigantea*). Interpretive signage along the Saguaro Discovery Trail discusses the life cycle of the saguaro and the role it plays in the cultural life of the Tohono O'odham.

Saguaros grow very slowly and are found only in the Sonoran Desert of the American Southwest and Mexico. Although it is impossible to precisely date the age of a saguaro, as there are no growth rings, it can take 50 years for a saguaro to reach three feet tall, 70 years to flower for the first time, 100 years to form its first branch, and 200 years to reach its full height of 40 to 50 feet. As they age, saguaros develop often comical, human-like features.

Birds nest in the cavities and "arms" of the saguaro, and some eat its fruit—as do mammals such as foxes and peccaries (javelinas). The fruit was eaten fresh by the Tohono O'odham, as well as stored in the form of syrup and preserves. A fermented juice made from the fruit was enjoyed at New Year's celebrations.

The one-half mile Desert View Trail is a naturalistic microcosm of the Sonoran Desert. Less visited than other areas of the park, it is possible to be the only human in an area frequented by birds and other wildlife. Many of the park's more than 300 night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii*) are found along this trail. On the one night a year (usually in June or July) when the spindly, green cactus unfurls a spectacular, large, white, waxy flower called the "Queen of the Night," the park is open late and the paths are lit with luminarias.

### Wildlife

Southeast Arizona is one of the world's great birding areas, and many resident and migratory species are attracted to parks such as Tohono Chul. Tohono Chul's checklist of birds has 140 species, including eight different hummingbirds,

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**ABOVE:** Flora along Desert View Trail include species of pancake-like prickly pear (*Opuntia*), unbranched saguaro, creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), cholla (*Cylindropuntia*) and palo verde (*Parkinsonia*).



15 flycatchers, 13 warblers, seven owls and 15 birds of prey, such as eagles, hawks and falcons.

Some of the avian species most likely to be seen on a casual visit to the park include Gambel's quail, American kestrel, Gila woodpecker, verdin, cactus wren, phainopepla, northern cardinal, pyrrhuloxia, lesser goldfinch and several different warblers and hummingbirds. Gila woodpeckers and Northern flickers are often observed near saguaro cactus, where they nest in cavities. After nesting, the abandoned cavities are used by other birds and critters, such as mice and honeybees.

A Hummingbird Garden borders the patio of the Tohono Chul Park Tea Room, planted with hummingbird-friendly plants such as salvia, desert honeysuckle (*Anisacanthus thurberi*) and desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*). Lunch on the terrace features both fine cuisine and fascinating flight.

In addition to birds, other desert denizens found in the park include desert cottontail rabbits, antelope ground squirrels and zebra-tailed lizards. Jackrabbits, javelinas, coyotes, and even bobcats, are occasionally spotted in washes and seasonal

pools. Numerous butterflies inhabit the park on a seasonal or year-round basis, and many plants provide nectar to adult butterflies or food during their larval stage.

### Theme and Demonstration Gardens

The Garden for Children offers private spaces and hidden surprises, such as a seating wall in the form of a giant rattlesnake, that capture the imagination of children and provide opportunities for learning and discovery. The Performance Garden, set in the shade of mature sweet acacia trees (*Acacia farnesiana*), offers concerts in the spring and fall and provides a calm, cool,

lush place to rest and relax away from the desert sun. Near the entrance to the Performance Garden is the world's second-largest identified foothills palo verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*)—a common small tree of the Southwest's Sonoran Desert that produces profuse yellow blossoms in the spring.

The Sin Agua ("without water") Garden features desert landscaping that uses mostly harvested rainwater. The principles employed—water harvesting, control and use of runoff, and testing of native plants for adaptability under the challenging conditions of alternating flooding and drought—are applicable to residential landscapes. Native shrubs and ephemerals are combined with small trees. Bloom times in the Sin Agua Garden peak after summer rains and in spring if the preceding winters have been wet. A "Pincushion Ramada" contains plants, mostly in the *Mammillaria* genus, that are fun to look at, but not to touch!

For a landscape designer, the Desert Living Courtyard is one of the park's most intriguing areas. The courtyard offers 10 water-conscious

**ABOVE:** The vine-covered entrance near the Performance Garden.



vignettes for those choosing to “garden where they live” and features a variety of landscape themes—each designed to demonstrate new and creative ideas for using water-conserving plants in livable landscapes that combine color, texture and function. The park’s Web site provides layouts for each garden, as well as materials and plant lists and useful technical details. The concepts are applicable to Pacific Northwest landscapes, although the plant lists would need to be adapted to our region and different materials chosen where elements such as native stone are specified.

Among the 10 vignettes in the Desert Living Courtyard is a traditional Tucson walled barrio garden filled with bright colors, rusticated, recycled materials and unique containers. A container garden includes a “potted” water feature, and a shady Moorish-style garden is laid out around a cooling fountain of blue, white

and yellow. A xeriscape garden blends into the surrounding landscape while also clearly illustrating the “zone” concept.

The boulder-strewn Desert Wildlife Garden has a shallow, multi-depth pond that contains desert pupfish, a species of fish native to the Sonoran and Mojave deserts. Plants for this garden were selected for minimal water use and attractiveness to small wildlife. A dry shade garden features native and arid-adapted plants that thrive in partial or total shade. A winter/summer garden is filled with plants that flower in either of Tucson’s most extreme seasons—winter cold or summer heat.

The Meditation Garden, the smallest of the 10 vignettes, was inspired by the simplicity of a Zen garden and demonstrates that even a tiny space can become a peaceful refuge with carefully chosen plants and hardscapes that reflect the natural environment.

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**ABOVE** The Wildlife-Friendly Garden features a boulder-strewn path, plants attractive to birds and other wildlife, and a naturalistic pool containing desert pupfish.



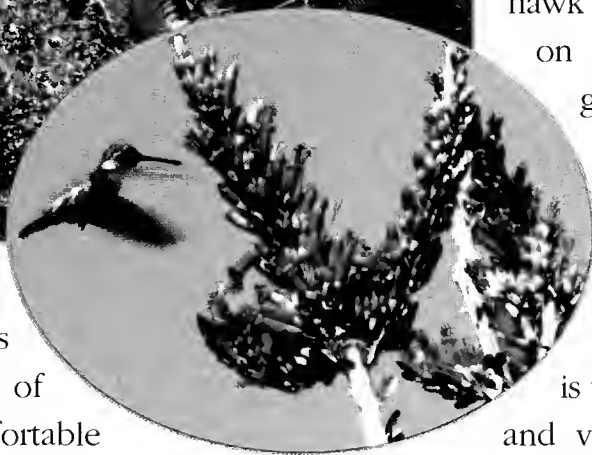


In the Outdoor Living Garden, architecture and plants combine to create a sense of place that is informal, comfortable and adapted to desert surroundings. There is even a Utility Garden, which demonstrates gardening basics such as tool storage, potting benches, composting, low-tech water harvesting and a kitchen garden in a cattle tank.

## Conclusions

Tohono Chul Park has much to offer and to savor. Although small in size, it is blessed with a knowledgeable and passionate corps of more than 300 well-trained volunteers who yearly contribute over 40,000 hours to the park.

Docent-led tours are offered twice a day year-round, except in July and August when tours are led only once in the morning. Bird walks are offered three times a week. In addition to scheduled tours, docents walk the trails and are available to answer questions and share stories. Docents also staff eco-stations with touch carts containing items of interest to visitors of all ages. On different days, the carts stock everything from



binoculars to hand lenses to mounted specimens, scientific models, skeletons, feathers and prickly plants. Similar to the Washington Park Arboretum, docents also provide community outreach to school and adult groups.

Other regularly scheduled activities include art-in-the-park tours, storytelling for children, wildflower walks and photography, reptile and hawk demonstrations, and instruction on ethnobotany and xeriscape gardening. The park's Web site ([tohonochulpark.org](http://tohonochulpark.org)) offers a wealth of information, including a comprehensive plant list with photos.

As well staffed as the park is with knowledgeable employees and volunteers, the park's greatest

attribute has to be that it is an accessible desert landscape near the edge of an expanding urban area. Although help is nearby if a visitor has questions, getting lost in the park probably provides the most profound experience. This is acknowledged in a second Albert Einstein quote etched on another slab of flagstone placed along the path: "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." ~

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**JANINE ANDERSON**, CPH, is an award-winning landscape designer ([www.anderson-design.net](http://www.anderson-design.net)), as well as a long-time Arboretum guide, member of the "Bulletin" Editorial Board, and vice president of the Washington State Chapter of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. Sue Feyrer, a docent who has authored a book on the flowering plants of Tohonu Chul Park, was especially helpful during and since Janine's visit to the park.

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**ABOVE** Color, texture and function merge in the Outdoor Living Garden.

**INSET:** A summer-residing Black-chinned hummingbird seeks nectar from flowers of native ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) in the Hummingbird Garden.

# Birdsong

BY PHIL WOOD

Our gardens nurture our spirits not just by visual beauty alone; encouraging the presence of birds brings both bird song and a natural balance to the world just outside our doors—our backyards. Birds are the inspiration for the Arboretum's



demonstration garden at the 2012 Northwest Flower and Garden Show (NFGS). The title of the garden, Birdsong, echoes the theme for this year's NFGS: A Floral Symphony. Choosing to showcase birds and the plants and habitats that support them seems to be a perfect mission for the Arboretum. We have partnered with the Seattle Audubon Society to create the garden.

The design of the garden represents a range of bird habitats found at the Arboretum. The miniature marshland mirrors the northern border along Union Bay and the Foster Island Trail. Deeper in the garden, the woodland edge leads into sheltering forest. Access to water allows bathing and drinking. A snag offers insects and nesting cavities, while the bird blind lets humans enter quietly into the avian world.

This year's design team consists of the designers that created last year's garden honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Japanese Garden: Bob Lilly, Roger Williams and Phil Wood.

Beyond demonstrating the beauty of the marshland and forest, the garden also demonstrates how show attendees can create wildlife habitats in their own backyards. The Seattle Audubon Society suggests three steps. The first one is to stop killing things—don't use pesticides. Ninety eight percent of insects are beneficial yet few pest control strategies discriminate between pests and beneficial insects. Almost all birds eat insects at some time in their life cycle, especially when they need additional

protein to feed their young, so killing insects with pesticides deprives birds of food.

Step two is to stop cleaning up. Let leaves, needles and cones remain as a natural mulch to benefit plants and wildlife. Snags provide food and shelter for wildlife. Leave

seedpods for birds to eat. A little untidiness goes a long way toward good habitat.

Step three is to plant more plants. While you can keep the non-invasive ornamental species that you love, include native species that provide food and cover for wildlife. Reduce or eliminate lawn and replace it with a diversity of plants.

Plant in layers—starting with groundcovers and going up through layers of shrubs, understory trees and overstory conifers. Make sure the layers overlap so that wildlife can travel up and down the habitat safely, with cover from predators.

Variety is important. The wider the selection of plants, the more kinds of wildlife your garden attracts. The Pacific Northwest has many ecological zones and not all native plants will grow in our lowlands. For thriving plantings, choose most of the plants for your native garden from the ecological zone that surrounds your site.

Here are some plants to consider for your garden—and the birds they attract:

■ Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) has seeds eaten by crossbills, dark-eyed juncos, chickadees and northern flickers. Give it room—it grows to 200 feet—and moist soil.

■ Tall Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*) reaches to eight feet with glossy evergreen foliage and does well in sun or shade, on moist or dry soils. The berries feed dark-eyed juncos, spotted towhees, cedar waxwings and

woodpeckers. Another species attractive to birds, low Oregon grape (*B. nervosa*), makes a good groundcover, reaching two feet and liking part shade to shade.

🍷 The showy white fruit of snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) are eaten by evening grosbeaks, American robins, spotted towhee and varied thrush. This deciduous shrub reaches five feet and is adaptable to sun or shade.

🍷 The flowers of the red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) provide nectar for hummingbirds, and its fruit is eaten by many bird species. It thrives in a sunny location or on the forest edge, reaching six to eight feet. Plant it in well-draining soils.

🍷 For a native ground cover, consider kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). The red berries provide food for ground birds. The plant needs good drainage and sun to part shade.

🍷 Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) brings color to the winter garden with its bright

red stems. This tall shrub reaching 15 feet spreads into thickets providing good cover for birds. Cutting it the ground each year makes it manageable in the home garden. The berries are eaten by many bird species. Give it moist to wet soil.

The exuberant variety of plants in the Arboretum, both native and non-native, encourages an abundance of wildlife. The next time you visit, enjoy the beauty of the individual trees and shrubs - and the birds that live among them. Immerse yourself in the interplay of plants and birds living together in a rich ecology to create a world full of song. 🍷

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**PHIL WOOD** is a garden writer and designer; he serves on the “Bulletin” Editorial Board and is the chair of the Horticulture Committee of the Seattle Chinese Garden Society.

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## Food for Thought: Pacific Northwest Edible Gardening Books in the Elisabeth C. Miller Library

BY REBECCA ALEXANDER

The current groundswell of interest in edible gardening and urban farming may be a natural response to a troubled economy, an industrialized food supply system that is susceptible to contamination, or the positive influence of Michelle Obama's White House kitchen garden (recalling a World War II victory garden with a hint of the 1960s "Back-to-the-Land" movement and an emphasis on organic methods). By growing their own food, gardeners are reclaiming an even earlier time—before factory farms, terminator seeds and food composed of "food-like substances." Concurrent with this trend is a rise in the number of new books on edible gardening. Many titles are by authors in the Pacific Northwest, perhaps due to our long growing season, our history of community gardens and small organic farms, and local government's increasing acceptance of city farms (and the chickens, goats and bees that sometimes inhabit them). The authors below build on the legacy of Northwest edible-gardening authors like Angelo Pellegrini, Binda Colebrook and Steve Solomon.

"Backyard Bounty : The Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest" by Linda Gilkeson (Master Gardener instructor in British Columbia and the author of "West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control") will prove useful for gardeners of all levels of experience. If you want to know about soil in raised beds, what to grow over the winter, or how to protect your grapes from predacious raccoons, this book will answer your

questions. The graphics are minimal, but each black-and-white illustration serves a purpose (such as showing what a nitrogen-fixing nodule looks like or how can you tell which figs are ready to pick), and the information is well organized and clearly presented. Even experienced gardeners will learn new things here.

"The Zero-Mile Diet: A Year-Round Guide to Growing Organic Food", by Victoria, B.C. nursery owner Carolyn Herriot (previous book: "A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide") has much in common with Gilkeson's book, though the production is more lavishly illustrated. The author claims that she was able to become self-sufficient in terms of fruits and vegetables within five years of creating her edible garden. However, her 50' x 50' potager with a 50-foot-long "Berry Walk" is the stuff of dreams, and not reality, for most avid urban food gardeners. Nevertheless, this book holds a wealth of information, including the basics of soil fertility; an A-to-Z, not only of vegetables but herbs; guidelines for fruit tree pruning, canning and preserving food; recipes ("Beans Baked in a Bottle!"); and seed-saving directions. Herriot has an intense interest in ornamental plants, and of all the books reviewed here, this title had the strongest design component—integrating edibles with ornamentals and enhancing the ornamental qualities of edible plantings.

Andrea Bellamy's "Sugar Snaps and Strawberries: Simple Solutions for Creating Your Own Small-Space Edible Garden" covers similar



ground, though it is not in calendar-year format. Bellamy is a Vancouver, B.C. garden writer and blogger (Heavy Petal), but her book is not tailored specifically to Northwest gardeners. It is liberally peppered with color photographs, most of which add design appeal rather than useful information. However, there are helpful instructions for building a raised bed and preparing a container for planting, as well as lists of “top ten easiest edibles” and “edibles for the winter garden.” This book would be a fine introduction to the subject for a beginner, especially a city-dweller.

Urban dwellers aren’t just growing their own vegetables these days. Increasing numbers of gardeners are including chickens, goats, bees and more in their edible landscapes. Seattle Tilth education program manager Lisa Taylor and fellow Tilth gardeners have authored “Your Farm in the City” to meet the needs of aspiring urban farmers. I found the neo-old-timey graphics and the cluttered layout distracting. Despite this, the information is sound, though the ambitious scope of the book means that topics are not always addressed in great depth. You can learn the expected things about soil building, seed starting and composting, but you will also encounter window farming (how to grow 25 plants in a four- by six-foot window), how to use tools without incurring injury, and basic care of chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats and bees.

Local garden writers Marianne Binetti and Alison Beck are co-authors of “Edible Gardening for Washington and Oregon: Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits & Seeds”, the latest gardening guide from Lone Pine Publishing’s series. It is a slim, color-illustrated volume, arranged alphabetically by edible crop. It would be useful for absolute beginners (who may not know that they are “in for a huge surprise” when they taste a tomato grown in their own garden). Oddly, the authors include *Arbutus*, with the statement that “birds love *arbutus* berries, but people can suffer

stomachaches if they eat too many.” (Readers may know that *A. unedo*’s species name derives from Pliny the Elder’s term *unum edo*, “I eat one,” presumably because they are unpalatable.) Unlike many other books on the edible-gardening theme, plants grown for their seeds are included here (caraway, sunflower). Other unusual inclusions are *Stevia* and fiddlehead fern.

If you would rather find your fern fronds beyond the limits of the garden fence, the fully revised and updated version of Doug Benoliel’s

“Northwest Foraging” is your guide. The author covers basic plant identification and botanical nomenclature, as well as seasonal lists of plants and guidelines for harvest and storage. Featured plants are alphabetical by common name, but the index lists both common and scientific names. Each plant page is introduced with a brief narrative (for instance, Swiss inventor George de Mestral’s close study of burdock seeds that led to the development of Velcro), identifying characteristics, habitat or range, and a review of edibility (cooked vs. raw, words of caution, etc.). The adventurous chef may wish to try some of the recipes, such as Stinging Joe (like Sloppy Joe, but with nettles!) or Flower Buds and Cheese (using lambs’ quarters and field mustard).

The do-it-yourself focus of Carol Deppe’s “The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-Reliance in Uncertain Times” is consistent with her earlier book, “Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties.” Deppe is a scientist in Corvallis, Oregon, and her book attempts to address large questions such as how we will feed ourselves in times of global warming, natural disaster and financial or personal crisis. For Deppe, growing her own food is her way of taking control of her health. She lives with celiac disease and cannot eat wheat or wheat-related grains, which are found in so many processed foods. The section on diet and food resilience may not seem relevant to every reader, but attaining a degree of self reliance by growing



some of our food is surely of use to all of us. Deppe covers topics such as gardening (safely!) for exercise, various ways to make a garden bed (“double-dug, single-dug, sorta-dug, and worm-dug”), water conservation and soil fertility. She then zeroes in on “the five crops you need to survive and thrive—potatoes, corn, beans, squash, and eggs,” including a disquisition on ducks versus chickens: “The most ecologically well-adapted livestock for the maritime Northwest is the duck.” The principles (“33 Golden Gardening Rules”) set forth in this book would be easier to apply if one owned a good-sized plot of land, but the author suggests ways that landless gardeners can still grow food—such as getting involved in community gardens, garden-sharing programs or leasing plots.

Though I personally am cheered by the sight of a P-Patch, a front garden, or a tiny apartment balcony resplendent with edible plants, there is still resistance to seeing raised beds replete with tomatoes and lettuce overtake a lawn or other underutilized space. Activist and arborist David Tracey’s “Urban Agriculture: Ideas and Designs for the New Food Revolution” opens with an account of conflict over creating a community garden in his native Vancouver, B.C. Despite this negative note, the book is an antidote to despair. Tracey’s informal and humorous style diminishes the sense of helplessness we feel in the face of corporate control over our food supply and its attendant environmental devastation and cost to human health. Tracey doesn’t give detailed directions on how to grow various vegetables from seed, or how to make your own compost. Rather, he aims to inspire and empower the reader to begin or continue the worthwhile work of growing food (as opposed to “fuud,” the term he coins for the products of Big Ag). You may not think you are engaged in agricultural pursuits but, by the author’s definition, anyone who grows edible plants is a farmer. Unlike other titles covered in this review, the book is explicitly organized from the smallest to largest scale of edible cultivation (sprouts on the kitchen

counter to full-scale farming). Tracey touches on aquaponics (in case you want to grow fish and greens together!), school farms, Cuba’s urban farms, and a checklist of questions to ask politicians before the next election (like asking where she or he stands on the use of public space to grow food by raising the concept of usufruct, the legal right to use and enjoy the fruits or profits of something belonging to another). There are numerous quotable lines in this book, such as: “It takes food to grow a village,” and “The seed knows what to do.” Tracey’s previous book was “Guerrilla Gardening: A Manifesto”.

Kurt Timmermeister’s “Growing a Farmer: How I Learned to Live Off the Land” will either send you off in search of a farm of your own or quell any lingering fantasies you may harbor about delving deep into agriculture. It is an honest, elegantly written account of how a Seattleite who never drove a car, let alone a tractor, made a transition from running successful restaurants to managing a 12-acre farm on Vashon Island. A warning to readers: Books made him do it! A lifetime of reading about the pastoral life, combined with a restaurateur’s awareness of the increasing industrialization of food, helped Timmermeister dare to turn a dream into an unglamorous but personally rewarding reality. Over time, his farming has shifted focus from vegetables to dairy products and hosted dinners. I confess to reading sections on slaughter and butchering with a wincing vegetarian eye, but I reveled in his ode to beekeeping: adrenaline-laced, but full of wide-eyed wonder. His awe at the mysterious alchemy of a feather-light packet of seeds becoming hundreds of pounds of pumpkins is contagious. ♪

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**REBECCA ALEXANDER** is the Plant Answer Line librarian at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. She grows apples, grapes, blueberries and strawberries in her home garden and lazily tends a shared vegetable patch a few miles away.

# Arboretum's First Director *Continued from page 10*

man, well-trained in horticulture and plant physiology. He was selected to become the first director of the fledging Arboretum as it was beginning to gather and plant its collections. Unfortunately, he was director at a time when the economic situation was difficult, and his ideas and goals clashed with those of some of the other personalities at the Arboretum. Dr. Hanley may have been too much of an academic for the day, in contrast to the more hands-on botanist Brian Mulligan, who followed him. Tragically, Dr. Hanley's life was cut short, and his public horticulture career, which was tremendously successful, was stilled. Nevertheless, we can see through the eyes of his daughter what a knowledgeable and kind man he was. Truly he left his mark on the Arboretum and on gardening in the Pacific Northwest during his short tenure. ♡

### Citations

"A Profile of Roberta Wightman", Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin, winter 2008, pp. 26-29.  
"Early Days of the Arboretum", H.G. Ihrig; winter 1959, Vol XXII, # 4, pp 110—112, 133.  
"Growth and Development of the Arboretum since 1943", B.O. Mulligan; winter 1959, Volume XXII #4, pp 113-116, 134-135.

**JOHN A. WOTT, PH. D.**, was one of the founding faculty members of the Center for Urban Horticulture. A past director of the Washington Park Arboretum, he is also a professor emeritus and director emeritus of the College of the Environment.

**WALT BUBELIS** is a member of the Arboretum Editorial Board and a prominent volunteer at the Arboretum.

## Opening Night Party

At the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

5:00 to 9:30 PM (times vary with ticket prices)

Washington State Convention Center

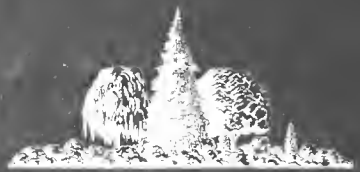
Please join us for our 23rd annual Flower & Garden Show preview party. Enjoy food, wine, silent auctions, live entertainment, and a first look at the spectacular display gardens of the show—including the Arboretum display garden, "Birdsong."



Arboretum Foundation

Produced by the Arboretum Foundation to benefit Washington Park Arboretum.

Tickets: \$65 to \$500. To register or for more details, call 206-325-4510  
or visit [www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org)



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